

cloture on it. I recognize we have that one vote, and I am happy to arrange a convenient time for everyone to vote. We could move that very quickly, but it is important we do this work.

We have other things we are looking forward to. I am going to meet with the Republican leader as soon as we finish here to talk about other things we can do so we can be keyed up to work when we come back. We have 3 weeks when we come back after the Presidents Day recess. The last week of that work period we will be dealing with the budget. After that, we are out for the recess for Easter. Then we come back and have an 8-week work period. So we have a lot to do. We think we can do all that, plus more.

It is going to be a short but very issue-packed time this year. We have the Presidential elections that are winding down, at least the nomination process, and then we have all the senatorial elections around the country that also take a little extra time. Hopefully, we can join together and get some things done.

RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader.

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, last week was a good example of what we can accomplish when we work with instead of against each other. We were able to pass an economic growth package on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis, which the President will sign this week. We have another chance in the current week to put up a bipartisan win by passing legislation on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. That bill, reported out of the Intelligence Committee, has broad bipartisan support. It came out of that committee 13 to 2. I am confident with the help of our friends on the other side of the aisle we can work through pending amendments, send this over to the House, and then on to the President for his signature this week before the Protect America Act expires on Saturday.

TRIBUTE TO TOM LANTOS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on another subject, I, too, want to talk about the passing of our good friend, TOM LANTOS. It would have been easy to excuse TOM LANTOS for turning against the world after the sufferings he endured as a young man. But the reason we admire certain people is they do not do what we would expect them to do in the face of extraordinary trials. They transcend them. And that is why a cold wind swept through the Capitol this morning when we heard that TOM had passed away.

America's history is a history of unlikely success stories, but even by

American standards, TOM's was stunning. When the Nazis invaded Hungary in the frenzied last months of the war, he threw on a cadet's uniform and secretly funneled food and medical supplies to those in hiding. He later said he assumed he wouldn't make it out alive, but he "wanted to be of some use."

He would add many more years to be of use—not only to his beloved wife Annette and their large extended family or to the people of California's 12th District but to suffering and oppressed people. His own bitter experiences led him to make no distinction at all among those who were denied their basic human rights. He would always be grateful for the honor of being able to help them. Well into his seventies, he said he still got goosebumps looking up at the flag on the Capitol on his morning walk to work.

TOM and I had our differences on domestic issues, but it was a great mark of his commitment to human rights that he frequently joined Republicans when these rights were at stake. He worked with the Republicans to introduce a resolution expressing solidarity with Israel in its fight against terrorism. He worked with the Republicans to get funds to fight AIDS around the world. Every year since 2003, he and I were the House and Senate sponsors of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act.

We were also united in our strong support for Israel. We took leading roles in the House and Senate on the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act. And we were united in our concerns about Iran. TOM introduced the Iran Counterproliferation Act in the House. I cosponsored it in the Senate.

When TOM was diagnosed with a life-threatening illness last month, he responded again in an extraordinary way. He responded with gratitude. He said:

It is only in the United States that a penniless survivor of the Holocaust and a fighter in the anti-Nazi underground could have received an education, raised a family, and had the privilege of serving the last three decades of his life as a Member of Congress.

We know TOM's decision to retire was especially painful, since he had just last year been named chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, a committee he had served on for 26 years. It was a position he said he had been preparing for his whole life.

With his distinctive accent, his grace, and his deep learning—he spoke five languages and devoted 6 hours a day to reading books and magazines—TOM always gave the impression of being a true gentleman of the House, and he was. But he was just as tough. TOM LANTOS accomplished something few people do in life: he committed himself to an ideal and followed through on it until the end. He gave it everything he had, and America admires him for it.

I want to express Elaine's and my deepest sympathies to Annette. We got

to know TOM and Annette on several trips abroad, which is a way you make friendships around here, both across the aisle and in the other body. Annette and TOM lived near us here on Capitol Hill. I recall frequently seeing Annette out walking the dog. So we grieve for her and their daughters and the entire extended Lantos family on their loss.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I want to spend a few moments to eulogize our old friend, the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, TOM LANTOS. He has been one of my dear friends all these years. I have been here 31 years, and he was here 26 years. He and Annette have really been wonderful people in Elaine's and my life.

Mr. President, this morning began sadly, as the two leaders have said, with the news of the death of Congressman TOM LANTOS, one of the giants among the Democrats in the House, and, frankly, among all Members of Congress during the last 28 years. Congressman LANTOS had been diagnosed with cancer a few months ago, and had recently announced he would not run for a 14th term for the 12th District of California, which he so ably served since 1980.

TOM LANTOS led a remarkable life. A Hungarian Jew, he lived what he said was a happy childhood until the Hungarian fascist allies of Hitler brought the Holocaust to Hungary. Through most of the war, he was interned in various forced labor camps, some from which he escaped, and was at least once recaptured, following a beating that he later said, "I was pleasantly surprised to survive."

After a final escape, he spent the remainder of the war in hiding, protected, as so many Hungarian Jews were, by Raoul Wallenberg, the man who risked his life to protect as many of Hungary's Jews as he could and who vanished into the Soviet camps at the end of the war. One of the great days of my life was to pay homage to Raoul Wallenberg at the monument in Europe.

Six hundred thousand Hungarian Jews perished in the Holocaust, including TOM LANTOS's family. One of the first initiatives of Congressman LANTOS upon coming to the House of Representatives in 1980 was to pass legislation granting Raoul Wallenberg U.S. citizenship.

TOM LANTOS was, in his words, "an American by choice," and to know him was to see that every day of his life he embraced the opportunities an immigrant can find in this great country. He arrived penniless to this country, as my two colleagues have said. According to his biography, his only possession was "a precious Hungarian salami," which was confiscated upon arrival, as my colleagues mentioned. But with a scholarship and hard work, he earned a Ph.D. in economics and